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information in response to a triggering event; and

- c. a control point coupled to the service, the calling party, and the switch wherein the control point is configured to activate the triggering event and to transfer the incoming call from the service to the called party such that the calling party and the called party are connected, wherein the billing information corresponding to the incoming call is stored in the switch and the stored billing information is used to charge the predetermined telephone line.

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2. (Unchanged) The billing system according to claim 1 wherein the service is a voice messaging system.

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3. (Amended) The billing system according to claim 1 further comprising an additional switch coupled to the control point configured to transfer the call from the service to the called party wherein the calling party and the called party are connected and the service is disconnected.

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4. (Amended) The billing system according to claim 1 wherein the predetermined telephone line is set as a specific telephone line by the calling party.

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5. (Cancelled)

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6. (Amended) A method of billing a call to a predetermined telephone line wherein a user initiates the call from a calling party to a called party through a service, comprising the following steps:

- 4 a. conveying data from the service to a control point, wherein the data indicates the predetermined telephone line, and the called party, and the calling party;
5 b. temporarily routing the call to a switch associated with the predetermined
6 telephone line;
7 c. forming a new call originating from the calling party and terminating at the called
8 party;
9 d. storing billing information related to the new call in the switch associated with the
10 predetermined telephone line; and
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e. automatically billing the new call to the predetermined telephone line using the stored billing information.

1 7. (Amended) The method according to claim 6 further comprising activating a terminating
2 attempt trigger in the switch associated with the predetermined telephone line.

1 8. (Amended) The method according to claim 7 wherein storing billing information on the
2 switch is in response to activating the terminating attempt trigger.

1 9. (Amended) The method according to claim 8 wherein the stored billing information
2 includes a call duration of the new call and a particular feature utilized during the new call.

1 10. (Amended) The method according to claim 6 further comprising setting a telephone line
2 as the predetermined telephone line.

1 11. (Amended) The method according to claim 6 wherein the calling party is not at the
2 predetermined telephone line.

1 12. (Amended) The method according to claim 6 wherein the calling party is the
2 predetermined telephone line.

1 13. (Amended) A method of billing a call to a predetermined telephone line wherein a user
2 initiates the call through a service from a calling party to a called party, comprising the following
3 steps:

- 4 a. conveying call data from the service to a control point wherein the control point is
5 coupled to the calling party, the predetermined telephone line, and the called
6 party;
7 b. terminating the call to the service;
8 c. forming a new call to link the calling party to the called party;
9 d. storing billing information related to the new call on a switch associated with the
10 predetermined telephone line; and

cont
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e. automatically billing the new call to the predetermined telephone line using the stored billing information.

1 14. (Unchanged) The method according to claim 13 further comprising temporarily
2 connecting the call to the predetermined telephone line.

15. (Amended) The method according to claim 14 further comprising the following steps:
a. terminating the call to the predetermined telephone line; and
b. automatically querying the control point via a terminating attempt trigger located within the switch associated with the predetermined telephone line in response to terminating the call to the predetermined telephone line.

1 16. (Amended) The method according to claim 15 wherein storing the billing information
2 related to the new call on the switch is in response to querying the control point.

1 17. (New) The method according to claim 16 wherein the stored billing information includes
2 a call duration of the new call and a particular feature utilized during the new call.

1 18. (New) The billing system according to claim 1 wherein the control point activates the
2 triggering event in response to the service initiating the outgoing call to the called party.

1 19. (New) The billing system according to claim 1 wherein the switch is configured to
2 transfer the call from the service to the called party wherein the calling party and the called party
3 are connected and the service is disconnected.

1 20. (New) The billing system according to claim 1 wherein the stored billing information
2 includes a call duration of the new call and a particular feature utilized during the new call.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

Please cancel claim 5.

Please add new claims 17-20.

1 1. (Amended) A billing system for automatically charging a call to a predetermined
2 telephone line, the billing system comprising:
3 a. [a service configured to initiate a call that passes through the service] a service
4 configured to receive an incoming call from a calling party and to initiate an
5 outgoing call to a called party;
6 b. [a calling party selectively coupled to the service via the predetermined telephone
7 line temporarily coupled to the call] a switch coupled to the predetermined
8 telephone line configured to store billing information in response to a triggering
9 event; and
10 c. a control point coupled to the service, the calling party, [and the predetermined
11 telephone line wherein the control point is configured to direct the call from the
12 calling party directly to a called party such that the call is billed to the
13 predetermined telephone line] and the switch wherein the control point is
14 configured to activate the triggering event and to transfer the incoming call from
15 the service to the called party such that the calling party and the called party are
16 connected, wherein the billing information corresponding to the incoming call is
17 stored in the switch and the stored billing information is used to charge the
18 predetermined telephone line.

1 3. (Amended) The billing system according to claim 1 further comprising [a] an additional
2 switch coupled to the control point configured to transfer the call from the service to the called
3 party wherein the calling party and the called party are connected and the service is disconnected.

1 4. (Amended) The billing system according to claim 1 wherein the predetermined telephone
2 line is [selectively determined] set as a specific telephone line by the calling party.

1 5. (Cancelled)

1 6. (Amended) A method of billing a call to a predetermined telephone line wherein a user
2 initiates the call from a [user location] calling party to a [destination] called party through a
3 service, comprising the following steps:

4 a. conveying data from the service to a control point, wherein the data indicates the
5 predetermined telephone line, and the [destination] called party, and the [user
6 location] calling party;

7 b. temporarily routing the call to a switch associated with the predetermined
8 telephone line;

9 c. forming a new call originating from the [user location] calling party and
10 terminating at the [destination] called party; [and]

11 d. storing billing information related to the new call in the switch associated with the
12 predetermined telephone line; and

13 [d.] e. automatically billing the new call to the predetermined telephone line using the
14 stored billing information.

1 7. (Amended) The method according to claim 6 further comprising activating a terminating
2 attempt trigger in [a] the switch associated with the predetermined telephone line.

1 8. (Amended) The method according to claim 7 [further comprising automatically storing a
2 call duration of the new call and a particular feature utilized during the new call on a switch]
3 wherein storing billing information on the switch is in response to activating the terminating
4 attempt trigger.

1 9. (Amended) The method according to claim [6] 8 wherein the stored billing information
2 includes [further comprising automatically storing] a call duration of the new call and a particular
3 feature utilized during the new call [on a switch associated with the predetermined telephone
4 line].

1 10. (Amended) The method according to claim 6 further comprising [initializing] setting a
2 telephone line as the predetermined telephone line.

1 11. (Amended) The method according to claim 6 wherein the [user location] calling party is
2 not at the predetermined telephone line.

1 12. (Amended) The method according to claim 6 wherein the [user location] calling party is
2 the predetermined telephone line.

1 13. (Amended) A method of billing a call to a predetermined telephone line wherein a user
2 initiates the call through a service from a [user location] calling party to a [destination] called
3 party, comprising the following steps:

4 a. conveying call data from the service to a control point wherein the control point is
5 coupled to the [user location] calling party, the predetermined telephone line, and
6 the [destination] called party;

7 b. terminating the call to the service;

8 c. forming a new call to link the [user location] calling party to the [destination]
9 called party; [and]

10 d. storing billing information related to the new call on a switch associated with the
11 predetermined telephone line; and

12 [d.] e. automatically billing the new call to the predetermined telephone line using the
13 stored billing information.

1 15. (Amended) The method according to claim 14 further comprising the following steps:

2 a. terminating the call to the predetermined telephone line; and

3 b. automatically querying the [service] control point via a terminating attempt
4 trigger located within [a] the switch associated with the predetermined telephone
5 line in response to terminating the call to the predetermined telephone line.

1 16. (Amended) The method according to claim 15 [further comprising storing a call duration
2 of the new call and a particular feature utilized during] wherein storing the billing information

3 related to the new call on the switch is in response to querying the [service] control point.

1 17. (New) The method according to claim 16 wherein the stored billing information includes
2 a call duration of the new call and a particular feature utilized during the new call.

1 18. (New) The billing system according to claim 1 wherein the control point activates the
2 triggering event in response to the service initiating the outgoing call to the called party.

1 19. (New) The billing system according to claim 1 wherein the switch is configured to
2 transfer the call from the service to the called party wherein the calling party and the called party
3 are connected and the service is disconnected.

1 20. (New) The billing system according to claim 1 wherein the stored billing information
2 includes a call duration of the new call and a particular feature utilized during the new call.